



November 22, 2023

To Mayor Scott Gillingham and City of Winnipeg Councillors

Re. Ensuring parents and caregivers can opt-out of the Smart Water Meter program at no cost

I am writing at the request of parents in Winnipeg who are concerned about the exposures of their children to radiofrequency (RF) radiation from smart water meters the City of Winnipeg is proposing for dwellings.

My name is Shelley Wright. I am the founder and director of Canadian Educators for Safe Technology (CE4ST). I work closely with students, teachers, staff, and parent volunteers who have been adversely impacted, or perhaps permanently injured, by radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation (RF-EMR) exposures in Canadian schools including exposures to the radiation emitted by cell towers.

Our non-profit, national organization actively promotes a balance of optimal health and the use of safe technology in a variety of educational settings. Through a rigorous review of independent science, CE4ST strives to raise awareness about the health risks associated with microwave radiation from wireless sources near school property and in classrooms, and to educate and empower schools and educational communities to use and promote safe technology strategies which fosters optimal health and learning environments.

Children today are exposed to wireless radiofrequency (RF) as never before and many parents are diligent about making their homes as low RF as possible using wired connections whenever possible.

The rollout of wireless smart meters in or on homes, and schools has implications for health, security, and costs.

Children are more physiologically vulnerable to microwave radiation emissions than adults. They have thinner skulls (deeper penetration), rapidly developing bodies, developing and vulnerable nervous systems, a high density of stem cells that are sensitive to modulated, digitally pulsed (biologically active)



RF in the microwave range. They will experience longer, cumulative RF exposures than any other generation.¹

Children can be adversely affected by exposures to wireless radiofrequency radiation such as that emitted from wireless equipment such as smart meters. Physician diagnosed students, and staff, experience “microwave sickness”. Depending on the signal strength, duration of exposure and proximity to the signal, common symptoms can include debilitating migraines, loss of executive functioning, disabling vertigo or disorientation, and cardiac symptoms including pressure in the chest and an irregular heartbeat.²

Certain individuals may experience electromagnetic sensitivity to utility meter signals, especially if they have underlying medical conditions such as immune deficiencies, heart arrhythmias, multiple sclerosis, autism, Parkinson’s disease, head injuries, or have been exposed to additional environmental toxins like Lyme disease from tick bites, or electrical or chemical workplace exposures.

My utility company recently transitioned to wireless water meters. My concerns were adequately addressed. I secured an exclusion that permitted me to retain my manual water meter. I volunteered to provide monthly readings over the phone to help reduce collection costs. The company explained that some residents have opted out, leading it to assign someone specifically for reading manual meters.

Please provide parents and caregivers the choice to opt-out of the smart water meter program. This is particularly needed for those children who are electrosensitive or have medical conditions that make them more susceptible to being adversely affected. It is also important to provide this option for parents and caregivers who want to be proactive in protecting their children’s health by minimizing their exposures to RF radiation. As many families with children are struggling to make ends meet, it is important that this be a no-cost option.

The World Health Organization’s International Agency for Cancer Research has classified RF radiation as a Class 2B *possible* human carcinogen and has RF radiation listed as a high priority for re-evaluation.³ This evaluation will include several high-quality large-scale animal studies. One of these studies, a \$10 million study by the USA government funded National Toxicology Program determined there was “clear

¹ Wireless technologies, non-ionizing electromagnetic fields and children: Identifying and reducing health risks <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36935315/>

² Wireless technologies, non-ionizing electromagnetic fields and children: identifying and reducing health risks <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36935315/>

³ International Agency for Research on Cancer. May, 2011 IARC Classifies Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields as Possibly Carcinogenic to Humans https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/pr208_E.pdf



evidence of carcinogenicity.” Based on new evidence, this type of radiation should now be classified as a *known* human carcinogen, according to some highly respected medical doctors and scientists.^{4 5}

Wired connections are safer for medically vulnerable persons, pregnant women (fetuses), and young children. Wired connections are also typically more resilient in adverse weather conditions and protect data privacy than wireless.

Please ensure that parents who want to err on the side of caution and want to be proactive in reducing their children’s exposures are able to opt out of the smart meter program with a simple request to do so and at no cost.

Sincerely,

Shelley Wright

Shelley Wright, B.A., B.Ed.

Founder and Director,

Canadian Educators for Safe Technology

email: shelleywrightce4st@gmail.com

⁴ Cancer epidemiology update, following the 2011 IARC evaluation of radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (Monograph 102). <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30196934/>

⁵ Comments on the US National Toxicology Program technical reports on toxicology and carcinogenesis study in rats exposed to whole-body radiofrequency radiation at 900 MHz and in mice exposed to whole-body radiofrequency radiation at 1,900 MHz. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30365129/>



Respectful **safe tech practices and wired devices** foster optimal health and focused learning in Canadian classrooms. Wired technologies **are inclusive**, energy efficient **and cost efficient**. It promotes caring, responsible citizens, who respect themselves, others, and the environment.

Additional Resources

Supporting information can be found at these websites:

Physicians for Safe Technology: <https://mdsafetech.org/>

Tech Safe Schools: <https://www.techsafeschools.org/>

Safe In School: <http://www.safeinschool.org/>

The Child Safe School: <https://www.thechildsafeschool.org/wireless-in-schools>

Electrosensitive Society: <https://www.electrosensitivesociety.com/>

Environmental Trust: <https://ehtrust.org/>

Wireless Education: <https://www.wirelesseducation.org/about-us/>

Canadians for Safe Technology <https://c4st.org/wifi-in-schools/>

Massachusetts for Safe Technology: <https://www.ma4safetech.org/>

Less Screen More Green: <https://www.lessscreenmoregreen.org/media>



Respectful **safe tech practices and wired devices** foster optimal health and focused learning in Canadian classrooms. Wired technologies **are inclusive**, energy efficient **and cost efficient**. It promotes caring, responsible citizens, who respect themselves, others, and the environment.